

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
----- 114842

P R 130915Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1211
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS LENINGRAD 0685

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MPOL, UR, US

SUBJ: U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIRST DAY OF THE U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD WENT VERY SUCCESSFULLY. A STRENUOUS ROUND OF PROTOCOL CALLS AND RETURN CALLS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EVENING DINNER HOSTED BY THE COMMANDER OF THE LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE, VICE ADMIRAL V.M. LEONENKOV. END SUMMARY.

2. THE U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD HAS BEGUN VERY WARMLY--LITERALLY IN THE SENSE OF UNSEASONABLY BALMY WEATHER AND FIGURATIVELY IN THE CASE OF PROFUSE OFFICIAL HOSPITALITY. CONGEN DPO, MOSCOW DATT, AND ONE ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE, RENDEZVOUSED WITH U.S.S. LEAHY OFF KRONSTADT AT 0700 MAY 12 AFTER SPENDING THE NIGHT ON A RIGA CLASS SOVIET DESTROYER. AS LEAHY AND TATNALL PASSED KRONSTADT NAVAL BASE, LEAHY FIRED 21 GUN SALUTE AND PLAYED U.S. AND SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEMS, WITH RETURN SALUTE FROM KRONSTADT SHORE BATTERY AND SOVIET BAND PLAYING NATIONAL ANTHEMS.

3. SHIPS ARRIVED AT MOORING SITE (PASSENGER SHIP AREA ON VASIL'YEVSKIY ISLAND) AT 1100 TO ACCOMPANIMENT OF SOVIET NAVAL BAND AND ASSEMBLED HONOR GUARD. VICE ADMIRAL KOLCHIN, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE, WAS ON HAND TO GREET ADMIRAL JUSTIN LANGILLE. STARTING WITH
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ADMIRAL LANGILLE'S FORMAL CALL ON CONSUL GENERAL AT 1145,

THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN A ROUND ROBIN OF CALLS AND RETURN CALLS ON FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: LENINGRAD CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (MAYOR) ;I. KAZAKOV; COLONEL-GENERAL A.I. GRIBKOV, COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD MILITARY DISTRICT; VICE ADMIRAL V.M. LEONENKOV, COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE; AND G.I. POPOV, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN LENINGRAD. THE RETURN CALLS ON ADMIRAL LANGILLE WERE CARRIED OUT WITH IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AND A NOTABLE FEATURE WAS SHIP'S CLOSED-CIRCUIT COLOR TV SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDED EACH SOVIET VISITOR AND "INSTANT REPLAY" OF HIS ARRIVAL CEREMONY ON BOARD.

4. ADMIRAL LEONENKOV HOSTED A DINNER AT THE CLUB OF THE FRUNZE NAVAL ACADEMY EVENING OF MAY 12 COMPLETE WITH SIX COURSES, COUNTLESS TOASTS, AND PRESENTATION OF MEMENTOES. ADMIRAL LANGILLE RECIPROCATED WITH PRESENTATION TO LEONENKOV OF SHIP PLAQUE AND BOOKS, INCLUDING AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SOVIET NAVY COMMANDER GROSHKOV'S BOOK ON SEA POWER. LEONENKOV WAS CLEARLY PLEASED AND OBSERVED THAT SOVIET NAVY COMMANDER IN MOSCOW WOULD BE INFORMED PROMPTLY OF EXCELLENT BEGINNING OF VISIT.

5. LATE LAST NIGHT, AS CONGEN OFFICERS WERE WINDING THEIR TIRED WAY HOME, GROUPS OF AMERICAN SAILORS COULD BE SEEN STROLLING ALONG THE STREETS OF LENINGRAD. AT LEAST TWO OF OUR TARS WERE OBSERVED WALKING ARM IN ARM WITH TWO ATTRACTIVE LENINGRAD LASSES--BLOND AND BRUNETTE--PERHAPS PROVING THAT THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF U.S. NAVY BEING CAN APPLY IN SOVIET UNION AS ELSEWHERE.
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